apportionment be made? These would become matters of grave consideration, should the case arise, and assuming that such distribution is an af-

fair of right, not of gratuity. At Rome, about the year of the city 268, Spurius Cassius proposed a law for the equal division of the conquered lands among all the citizens, and limiting the quantity each should possess to a certain number of acres. This plan was originated by the mover for the purpose of gaining popular favor and distinction. He overshot the mark, however, and missed his aim. His project was to divide the territory, taken from the Hernici, equally among the Roman Plebeians and the Latins. The People of the city were pleased at first with the proposition. But, when they found that their neighbors were to go snacks, they were displeased. Cassius was charged with ambitious views towards the sovereignty, and was thrown from the Tarpeian rock. There were several laws of similar character projected at different times, but they generally failed and brought destruction upon their authors.

The measure now before Congress resembles very much, in its spirit and principle, the original Cassia Lex, and claims the gravest consideration. The agrarian laws of Rome (and this last mentioned in particular) were, like ours, intended as donations to the landless poor. But they had reference to the policy of thus inviting from the over-crowded city a part of its population to occupy and cultivate the territory recently acquired. Our bill also suggests the extension of agriculture, manufactures, commerce, &c. &c., but its advocates-or at least many of them-claim and urge the distribution proposed as a matter of "right;" and we desire to examine this point in the first place. The expediency of thus gratuitously disposing of the national domain, and the power of Congress to do so, we may after-

To take the question, then, as presented by several gentlemen, but more distinctly by Mr. JULIAN, we ask: Has every man a "natural right" to "land" as one of the "means of living ?"

In Genesis 1st, 20th, it is written: "And God 4 said. Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you'it shall be for meat." This seems to be rather a usufruct than a fee simple; and, besides, the grant is not very exclusive, for the inferior animals were placed by the next verse in the same brought to barbarism. Science, refinement, taste, category: "And to every beast of the earth, and to and elegance are indispensable to the "general every fowl of the air, and to every thing that welfare." The physical and political strength of a creepeth upon the earth wherein there is life, I nation depends upon its advance and progress in have given every green herb for meat." There is, these particulars. Gibbon says that "with the imhowever, in the 16th verse of the 115th Psalm, a provement of arts, the human species was visibly more distinct appropriation in these words: "The 4 Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord's, but the earth hath he given to the children of men." We beautified. Even luxury, so much condemned by may no doubt, therefore, justly claim to be the legitimate owners of the globe that we inhabit by grant social elements, so as to be a means of correcting from the Supreme Lawgiver. But upon what par- the unequal distribution of property. "The diliticular spot shall any man be permitted to locate his warrant? There is enough for us all: Shall we, then, be allowed to intrude upon the pre-occupancy of another, and require him to share his possession with us? or must we seek, in some vacant territory, a place to fix our "natural right" to an adequate portion of land?

In the case of the children of Israel, God, by his servant, not only prescribed the National boundaries and the limits of each tribe, but allotted parti- Government, it is well-adapted to promote the comcular tracts to the individual families. This is, mon good. Every Procrustean attempt to increase however, the only instance of direct Divine inter- or diminish individual store by legislation is absurd ference in the distribution of the soil. The whole and tyrannical. Let every one be made secure in concern has generally been left to those principles the enjoyment of his fair acquisition, and let the day last passed a bill to repeal the existing law of to guide to welfare and happiness.

Our physical structure and all our feelings and than a beast of prey. One of the first social institutions was that of property; and we have an instance to the law and the custom."

Even at this early period, then, we discover that the "right" to any particular piece of ground within secure "the means of living." the limits of a national appropriation was not regarded as "natural," but entirely conventional, resting and the only one upon which the proposed distribuupon the common consent, as evidenced by the legal. tion of the national domain can be justified or exregulations of the country. In fact, this is the only source of title to what we own; and the whole doc- title, a "bill to encourage agriculture, commerce, trine of "meum and tuum" stands upon it, as the | manufactures, and all other branches of industry only true foundation. He who made the earth has given it for our use; but the precise portion each camily and a citizen of the United States a home may have depends upon fair acquisition in conformity stead of one hundred and sixty acres of land out with the general social arrangements of the nation

If we wish to claim under the "higher law" directly, we must go to some region where no appro- of the whole matter. Will the "condition" here priations of territory have been made. Within the limits of an extended country, designated for public rated? If it certainly would, then would our opor private-ownership by the acts of a regular Gov- position cease, and we should cordially aid in carernment, no man has a "natural right" to place his cabin upon any particular circumscribed tract, with results so beneficent. The object is intimated and say "this is mine." A title by "actual set- to be the advancement of "the general welfare" in tlement" is absurd, unless legal policy may thus the particulars specified. Such an enactment would encourage hardy pioneers to enter the forest and be within the constitutional power of Congress, it plant the footsteps of civilization in its dark recesses. it would produce the happy effects contemplated. With this view, however, what are called "pre- Will the nation at large then be benefited by giving emptions" may be justly favored and protected.

We say, then, that in a regular organized society every one may have a "right" to any property which he can acquire in a mode recognised and sanctioned by the law of the country, and he is a wrong-doer if he gets it in any other way. It is a "means of living." In every refined community the greater number of citizens own not a foot of ground, it ought to go further : He ought also to be supplied with the implements of husbandry, for without them the land would do him little good. Although he own a farm, yet to cultivate it in order to get the "means of living," the blacksmith, the carpenter, and other mechanics must be compelled to labor for him.

as clear as its impracticability.

THE PUBLIC LANDS .- No. II.

We are opposed to Agrarian Laws of every kind, unless those "statutes of distribution" which divide the land of the deceased father equally among all his children may be so called. The "insolent prerogative of primogeniture," as Mr. Gibbon terms it, has no just foundation in nature or reason. The ancient Romans placed sons and daughters on the same footing, and each of them was entitled to an equal portion of the patrimonial estate. In this country the same principle has been adopted; and the consequence is, that, although boundless acquisition is proposed still, as the encouragement and reward of industry and talents, yet overgrown accumulations of wealth are soon dissipated and scattered. There never can be, in our system, a dangerous aristocracy. Perhaps we have more reason to apprehend the growth of a levelling spirit, which may seek to coerce civil and social equality, not by elevating all in the scale of intellectual, moral, and physical well-being, but by pulling down to a lower grade those who would aspire to rise. We deprecate this as even a greater evil. Our country is our pride and boast. It is our first wish to see its institutions prosper, and the "general welfare" advance to glorious success. We desire that the equal social, civil, and political rights of the citizens should be maintained by wise laws, justly administered; that every industrial pursuit should be fairly encouraged and fostered; and that the avenues to fortune and fame should be alike open and free to all. But we do not want the property of the nation, in which each individual citizen has a common right, to be given AWAY to men simply because they are poor, If they are helplessly in that condition, they have a claim, founded on Christian obligation, to relief, but not from the General Government, which has nothing to do in any of its functions with charity or benevolence, simply considered. Every person who has a sound mind in a sound body ought to be actively and usefully employed; and it is true that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich." He who is destitute because he chooses to be a loafer or a spendthrift, falls within the category of the Apostle, who "commanded that if any would not work, nei-But agricultural labor alone cannot make a pros

perous or happy commonwealth. If every man were placed in the situation of an "independent cultivator" of the soil, society would soon be multiplied;" and the "increasing splendor of cities' causes the face of the country to be adorned and moralists, is overruled, in the organization of the gent mechanic and the skilful artist, who have obtained no share in the division of the earth, re-' ceive a voluntary tax from the possessors of land; and the latter are prompted by a sense of interest to improve those estates, with whose produce they may purchase additional pleasures."

We believe this to be the order that God and Nature intended, as the best for our social state: and, when it can be maintained by a free and just and instincts that have been given us by the Creator quantum he may obtain be left to his own honest Massachusetts which permits the choice of Presi-

Our corollary, then, is, that donations of the pubsympathies prove that we are created for communion lie lands (or other property) to private citizens, un- all the votes cast to elect. What would be the with each other in the order of families and nations. less it clearly appears that the "general welfare" These arrangements have existed from the earliest will be promoted thereby, are unjust and impolitic. period, and without them man would be little better They are unjust, because they divest, without consent or consideration, an undoubted ownership which every man has in the national domain, and of the legal conveyance of land as early as eighteen give it to those who have no pretence of right hundred and sixty years before the birth of Christ. thus rendering insecure the tenure of real estate; Abraham bought the field in Machpelah from Ephron for, if a person can be deprived of his interest in the Hittite for "four hundred shekels of silver." The the public lands, those which he holds by another transaction is detailed in the 23d chapter of Genesis. title may also be taken by the strong arm of power. The 17th verse says: "The field and the cave Such donations of land are also impolitic, because which was therein, and all the trees that were in they introduce a precedent which may encourage 4 the field, that were in the borders round about, landless claimants to cry, like the two daughters of were made sure." In Jeremiah 32d we read of the horse-leech, continually, "give, give!" We the transfer of land for a price in money, and the know no reason why the gratuity should be limited "evidence of the purchase" was "scaled, according to 160 acres. By the "Licinian law" at Rome 500 jugers (or about 333 acres) were allowed; and perhaps that quantity might be little enough to Representatives.

> But let us look at the main point of the case cused. The Land Distribution Bill is called, in the by granting to every man who is the head of of the public domain, upon condition of occupancy and cultivation of the same for the period of ' five years." This preamble contains the substance prescribed really promote the great interests enume rying into full and liberal execution a plan fraught away the national domain? THAT IS THE QUES-TION.

When Caesar offered his Agrarian law, in the ommencement of his first Consulship, (A. U. 693,) he urged in its favor "that a distribution of lands often gave rise to seditions; to re-people and culti-Besides, if title could be sustained on such vate several parts of Italy which were abandoned; to recompense the soldiers who had served the Commonwealth, and to give subsistence to many citizens who wanted it." Notwithstanding these plausible and popular pretexts, Cato condemned the project in strong language, averring "that he did not so much apprehend the division of the lands as the wages that would be required of the people The absurdity and injustice of the proposition are 'by those who sought to inveigle them by this pre-'sent." Cicero also, although he observed a kind ing boat.

of neutrality, was against the measure. In a letter to Atticus he says: "Cæsar hopes that I will second him, and invites me to it. See the advan-tages I shall gain by taking this party; the friend-ship of Pompey, and even that of Cæsar, if I de-sired it: a reconciliation with my enemies; the peace of the multitude; and the assurance of quiet in my old age; but after the conduct I have maintained in my Consulship, and the principles which I have maintained in my writings, ought not my rule to be this maxim of Homer, the best of all counsels is to defend one's country?"

Contrary to the views and wishes of these "old fogies," Cresar, with the assistance of Pompey and Crassus, (who were subsequently his colleagues in the first triumvirate,) carried the law by the suffrages of the people. The lands were divided, and in a few years the "wages" was paid. Cæsar, by the aid of the military and the mob, triumphed over the Senate and made himself Dictator. The liberties of Rome were gone forever, and despotism super-

We do not fear such a catastrophe in our case: nor are we imputing ambitious motives to any man. But we think that all great measures may be wisely looked at in the light of historical admonition. There never was, as we think, a question of such magnitude and importance, in all its fiscal, social, and political aspects, as that which is now pending before Congress. If the national domain be "disposed of," by grant to individuals or corporations, we repeat, it is gone forever. Before consummating such an act of irrevocable extinguishment, therefore, every statesman, and indeed every citizen, for the interest that he individually has in it, ought to give the matter the gravest consideration. He should carefully settle in his mind the inquiry whether it is EXPEDIENT OR POLITIC to give away the public lands, and whether the "general welfare" will be promoted by such gratuitous grants.

ence which the plan proposed may have upon the ing Northern Lights. revenue of the Government. Will the means of the Treasury be increased by the distribution? It is obvious, we think, that the direct effect must be, on the contrary, a positive and large diminution of the national resources. From the report of the Sec- About eight o'clock the northern horizon began to glow retary of the Interior, dated December 2d, 1850, it with an unusual light, and in a few minutes the whole appears "that the Public Lands have been a rich magnificent phenomena of the Aurora Borealis burst upon our view. A thousand columns of light, like things of source of revenue to the Government, averaging about one and a quarter million of dollars per annum for the last fifty years over and above all exthat time, would amount to sixty-two millions and a ber and brilliancy, flashing wilder and grander, up to half. Mr. MEREDITH, Secretary of the Treasury, wards and across the zenith, and far down the southern on the 3d of December, 1849, reported "that this source of [annual] revenue may be taken at nearly four millions of dollars." He also stated that the actual receipts at the Treasury from the Public Lands for the year ending 30th June, 1848, were \$3,328,642.

The amount of sales had advanced with the progress and improvement of the country, and the gradual increase of agricultural migration. The immediate effect, then, of a sweeping distribution of these lands must be the extinction of this prolific source face. The snow was red like blood, and the reflection of of revenue. Are there any indirect or collateral benefits to the nation that could compensate this loss to the public fise? We think there are none: as we will hereafter endeavor to show.

The Coalition of Democrats and Free-Soilers in the Massachusetts Legislature are endeavoring to prepare a way by which they can combine their orces upon the Presidential question. With this object in view, the majority of the Senate on Tuesand to restore the old law requiring a majority of effect of such a change in the law, under present circumstances, is very clearly shown by the Albany Argus, in the following extract from that paper:

"Under the present state of things in Massachusetts, it is next to impossible that the people would effect a choice; and of course nearly certain that this high trust would devolve on the Legislature. The direct result of the law would be to take the power from the many and give it to a few, more essible to influences and combinations from in terested aspirants and their adherents. This is understood to be a game of the Coalitionists, to whom, if successful, it would give the important power of choosing electors for the people! This is coalitionism in Massachusetts."

There is said to be some doubt, however, whether the very disreputable bill which has passed the Senate will receive the sanction of the House of

COMMUTATION OF PUNISHMENT.-We are authorized to say that in the case of Wells, convicted of murder, and sentenced to be hanged yesterday, the Executive elemency has been so far extended as to ment in the Penitentiary for life.

SAN DOMINGO .- Intelligence from Jacmel to the 11th instant states that the coronation of Emperor SOULOUQUE had been postponed till the 18th, and that efforts were making to prevent it altogether.

oany yesterday.

PREDICTION FULFILLED.—TRISTAM BURGESS, in one of his speeches in Congress, predicted the time when "the American eagle shall with one wing winnow the breezes of the Atlantic and with the other hover over the quiet waters of the Pacific." Republican Herald.

The death of the Hon. RICHARD COURTER, of the Su preme Court of Pennsylvania, is announced in the Harrisburgh Telegraph. He died at Greensburg on Tuesday night. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and in Congress, as well as in the councils of his own State. had made a considerable figure.

The Hon. JAMES A. MERIWETHER, of Georgia, died at his residence in that State on Saturday last. Although in the prime of life, he had been a prominent man in the State, and had filled many distinguished stations with credit to himself and honor to the State. He had filled 'among the poor citizens was altogether useful; was the several offices of State Legislator, Representative in preposterous to allege that a man must have land as "necessary to deliver the city from a multitude of Congress, Judge of the Superior Court, and Speaker of people with which it was overburdened, and that the House of Representatives of Georgia, in all of which often gave rise to seditions: to re-people and cultiof character which pre-eminently distinguished him among

> BURNING OF STRAMBOAT. - The steamboat Pocahontas, from Arkansas, bound to New Orleans, with 2,360 bales of cotton, took fire on the 16th instant, and was burnt to the water's edge in less than half an hour. The boat and cargo are a total loss. Ten persons, including the late Sheriff of Arkansas, a lady and three of her children, the cabin boy and two firemen, either perished in the flames or were drowned in attempting to escape from the burn-

DELAWARE.

A meeting of the Whigs of Newcastle county wa mously adopted:

Resolved, That while the Congress of the United States has thus far during its present session proved itself to be regardless of the rights and interests of the people, especially on the important subjects to which we have referred, yet the President and the Executive Government of the United States eminently merit the approbation of those who entrusted power to their hands, by the firm discharge of the duties enjoined upon them by the laws and constitution of our country; and that, as Whigs, we will stand by and support the Executive Administration, as we have always sustained those who have administered the Government upon Whig principles.

Resolved, That the distinguished talents and services of General Winners of the control of the state of the control of t Resolved, That while the Congress of the United States

Resolved, That the distinguished talents and services of General Winfield Scott entitle him to the lasting gratitude of the whole country. In him we behold a man of unblemished character and unsullied reputation; kind, affable, courteous, and patriotic; a Whig, firm and true; during his life identified with Whig principles; and now, after a service of nearly forty years to his country, we desire with grateful hearts to bestow on him the highest office within the gift of a free people.

Resolved, That in John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky, we find ability, patriotism, and unbending integrity; that he is a trusted and tried Whig; has always been faithful to his country, discharging his duty in Cabinet council and in the Senate with great credit to himself; and therefore do we seek to honor him as our first choice for Vice President of the United States.

Resolved, That we desire the delegates from this county to present to the Whig Convention, to meet at Dover on

to present to the Whig Convention, to meet at Dover on the first Tuesday in June next, the name of Winfield Scott, of New Jersey, as our first choice for the office of President of the United States; and the name of John J. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, as our first choice for the office of Vice President of the United States.

AURORA BOREALIS ON THE NORTHERN LAKES. FROM THE CLEVELAND HERALD.

sundown and the North Pole, Lake Superior, March 10. * "Contrary to the general rule, night here is more beautiful than the day. Indeed, compared with this cloudless clime and starry sky, you never had in Cleveland 'a night as was a night.' You never saw the beau-

The first particular to be examined is, the influ-tiful blue of the sky, its flashing meteors, or wildly danc-"I shall never forget the night of the 19th February

last. We were on the North Trap Rock Range, seventeen miles in the woods. There was no moon nor a speck of cloud, but over the whole wide firmament the beautiful stars were scattered broadcast with a splendid liberality. life, moved gaily up and down the sky, keeping time to the electric music of the frigid zone, as they merrily danced the dances of the upper world. It was almost nenses." The whole aggregate receipts, then, to alarming to see with what rapidity they increased in num sky. At nine o'clock, as if by preconcerted arrangement, all the dancers suddenly gathered immediately over our heads, and, spreading out in a sea of flame; radiated at every point of the compass, until every portion of the sky was intensely illuminated by the electric light from this common centre. And so it continued for two hours-the wildest, grandest exhibition that I ever gazed upon. Innumerable columns of light would flash wildly from one horizon to the other, making the forests around us as brilliant as the mountain-top at noonday. But I will not atits magnificence. The sky was on fire, blazing in my very on their way to the head of the San Saba. The Galthe wild corruscations of that burning firmament rolled and tumbled like the waves of an angry sea adown the winter-clad bluffs and mountains around me. And when, late at night, I sought the land of dreams, my soul was thrilled with visions of blazing districts and burning worlds-the magnificent exhibitions of the North."

FROM HAVANA.

[Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.]

HAVANA, APRIL 15, 1852. The new Captain-General for Cuba has just arrived by the Spanish steamer, and his reception will probably take place early to-morrow morning, with the usual ceremo-nies. Crowds are already on the way to make fair weather

It is somewhat singular that General Concha will leave Cuba with the soldier's and gentleman's-kit that he brought with him, not repleuished even with a tailor's outfit; taking a balance of some two or three thousand dollars having expended his salary in the promotion of the local arts, industry, and institutions of charity. The like has not occurred since the departure of VALDEZ, who went home by the provision made by his warm-hearted friends. Improvidently generous, he was not calculated to govern, nor could he well govern himself. Tacon, next, cared for his own fame, wanted no money, extorted none, but claim the rainy day, but only what he earned by the labor of purification of the administration, and establishing an ef-fectual criminal jurisdiction.

General O'Donnell came to replenish wasted coffers

and to pay old debts; and he did, with a large balance dragged from the industry of the island, variously stated at from \$800,000 to one and a half million.

Count Alcor was more moderate; but he brought thir-teen trunks, and carried away two vessels loaded with his property, and a large sum of the ready to make him home comforts in Spain.

B. Y.

of Massachusetts, sitting at Taunton, has decided the case of Oliver Earle and others, against William Wood and ed, but nobody was fatally hurt. others, in favor of the complainants. The parties represented two sects in the Society of Friends, the plainti being known as Gurneyites and the defendants as Wilburites : and it is said that this decision settles the title to all the property belonging to the Friends within the jurisdiction of the New England yearly meeting. Chief Justice commute the punishment of Death into imprison- SHAW delivered the opinion of the Court, unanimously sustaining the claims of the body of the society agains those of the few who separated from them in 1835, under an organization commonly known as the Wilbur meeting. and deciding that the body of the society in New England remains a sound and consistent body of the Society of Friends, and that their disciplinary proceedings had been regular throughout, and that those who separated from Ex-Governor Young, of New York, died at Al- them have no claim to the property in contest."

> known to farmers, and which at this season is important that there are two parts in the Potato, which, if separate fit for the table eight or ten days sooner than the other. The small end of the potato, which is generally full of eyes, is the part which produces the earliest; the middle or body of the potato the late and larger ones.
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> [Louisville Journal.]

> A considerable cave, recently discovered in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, has been explored. It is situated about a mile south of the village of North Adams. A narrow and difficult passage, about ten feet in length, leads to a room large enough to contain six or eight persons. Northward, a small horizontal avenue, ten or twelve feet long, leads to another room, considerably larger than the first. From this, by descending twenty perpendicular feet, another room is entered, thirty feet long, by an av-erage breadth of about twenty feet, and twenty feet high. Beyond this, and lower down, are smaller apartments, answering to bedrooms, pantries, &c. Further on no one was explored. The walls of the cavern are composed of limestone, belonging to the vast ledge of which Saddle Mountain is composed.

Two DROMIOS IN THE RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATURE .-There are two brothers in the Rhode Island Legislature, named Christopher Columbus Potter and Americus Ves-pucius Potter, who are so much alike that it is doubted vidence Journal says:

idence Journal says:

"Christopher is a Whig, and Americus a Democrat; and there is a pretty muse when they get to Newport. Not a soul in the Hoin tell one from the other; and the Democrate will be running hristopher, and the Whigs to Americus, with all the secrets of the spective parties. We have ourselves sometimes commenced a poll conversation with the Democratic brother, who always had enerosity to interrupt us before we got upon dangerous ground. No heat we most either, we say, as we take his band, "is this you or prother?" If it be Americus, he says, "it is I," and we take abolities; if it be Americus, he says, "it is I," in we take abolities; if it be Americus, he says, "it is not I, it is my brother." te take about the weather. We should advise them to wear a be round their hats, like the railroad conductors; but then they we carry to change hats and that would make it worse."

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT. By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

WILLIAM L. J. KIDERLEN, to be Consul of the nited States at Zurich, in Switzerland. HENRY R. DAY, to be a Justice of the Peace in the county of Washington, in the District of Co-

JOHN EDWARD BOULIGNY, Assistant Appraiser of Merchandise at New Orleans, vice A. Metayé,

THE FRESH.

The latest advices from Harper's Ferry represent the water in the Potomac to have fallen seven feet. No damage to the bridge. The Government works have been less injured than was first supposed. Much damage, however, has been sustained all along the watercourses. The Canal has also suffered materially, as well

It appears that our neighbors of Alexandria did not suffer much by this freshet. On Tuesday most of the it, &c. wharves were covered with water, which ran up in King street, above Union street, but no material damage was for the purpose of showing how incorrect and invidious done to property.

The destruction of property along the water-courses in Frederick county is said to be very great. The Winchester Republican of yesterday, in speaking

of the late rains and freshet, says that a flood so universal in its devastating effects has not been known in that country for many a year, and the period is not recorded in the memory of the oldest when river, creek, and rivulet rose to a height so destructive. From all quarters (it continues) do we learn of homesteads deserted ters (it continues) do we' learn of homesteads deserted and swept away; mills, with their rich stores of grain and flour, broke up and scattered upon the mad waters; enclosures broken down and swept off; and, in short, desolation marking the pathway of even the most insignificant streams. Upon the Shenandah river we have heard of the partial if not entire destruction of many costly mills. Many, it is said, are almost submerged, and supposed to be utterly ruined. Ashby's mill, Richards's mill, and Harrison's mill have been mentioned in this category. Upon the Openuon we have heard of this category. Upon the Opequon we have heard of similar devastations; dams, mills, fencing, and every thing destructible within reach of its waters sharing the same fate. On Stephens's Run we learn that a mill and saw-mill, with their dams, the property of Mr. Wiss, are total wreeks. At Harner's Ferry we are told the description total wrecks. At Harper's Ferry, we are told, the deso lation is extreme. Upon the line of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad several bridges and a long line of Potomac Railroad several bridges and a long line of trestle supporters of the road are swept away, and seve-ral cars and canal boats, with their rich lading, gone to appease the hunger of the flood-fiend. Upon Virginius Island, it is said no inhabitant remained; all fled to the uplands, leaving to the angry billows the work of desola-tion. Many houses have been swept away; how many

LATE RIOT AT HAVANA.—The Journal of Com merce has a letter from Havana, dated on the 11th merce has a letter from Havana, dated on the 11th instant, which gives the following account of a late waters of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers commenced to rise. The latter, at Brownsville yesterday rather an exaggerated account:

"The peace of the good and loyal town of Casa Blanca, that reposes under the rampart walls of Cabanas, in front of Havana, was invaded and disturbed by an expedition of the crews from an English and an America vessel moored in the vicinity. An attack was made by them on a party of Spanish sailors, and the soldiers of the vicinity were called upon to disperse them, which was accomplished with the exercise of much forbearance on the part of the latter. An English sailor and an Amecan were, in the conflict, made acquainted with Span ish steel, applied in the back, and piercing the breast in front. The American, it is said, will die; but there is hope of recovery for the English tar. The Yorkers say it was a very fair fight, as it took some thirty-five soldiers

LATER FROM TEXAS.—By advices from Galves ton to the 9th instant, we learn that from 1.500 to tempt to describe it. I was dazzled and overwhelmed by 2,000 Camanche warriors had assembled at Slano, veston News says:

"The great difficulty which we apprehended our second class creditors would experience in getting their pay is now realized. The treasurer gives notice that he has no specie on hand, and that claimants must be prepared to change the \$1,000 bonds, allowing the interest and three per cent. premium on the same."

M. Kossutu, it is announced, will certainly be in Bos ton on Tuesday next, when there is to be a great procession, &c. Monday last (April 19) was the anniversary of the battle of Lexington, which was fought on the 19th of April, 1775; more than a year before the Declaration of Independence. It is a day associated with the renown of Boston. The Advertiser of that city, noticing the fact that there the day was allowed to pass off without public

"Our Legislature are preparing for a celebration that they consider more important. While they forgot the battles of Lexington and Concord, they suffered the State House to be hung in ropes for the entertainment of M. Kossurn. It would be a subject worth laughing at if one

The vessels of the Arctic expedition, under the com mand of Capt. Sir E. BELCHER, were to sail from the Thames on the 15th instant. A supply of 20-lb. canisters of gunpowder, to be exploded by galvanism, has been placed on board the vessels for the purpose of breaking up the ice, and forcing a passage for the steamers through Wellington Channel.

RAILBOAD ACCIDENT .- There was a serious accident on the New Jersey railroad on Friday evening, caused by an engine running off the track between Jersey city and Rahway. The Newark Advertiser, which gives no cause for the occurrence, says "the engine leaped from the track and dashed against the rocks, reducing itself almost ANOTHER CHURCH CASE DECIDED. - The Supreme Court to a perfect wreck, and throwing the tender into fragments." The engineer and fireman were both badly scald-

> NICARAGUA.-Mr. KERR, it appears, acted with great energy and promptness in the affairs of sixteen American prisoners that had fallen into the hands of Lopez by the capitulation of Munos' troops, and the surrender of the capital of Leon to the Government party under Chamorro. Scarcely was the Government of Nicaragua reinstated, before, disregarding the capitulation, it wished to take vengeance on the sixteen American prisoners; but the energetic conduct of Mr. KERR, of Maryland, who most solemnly protested against the act, claiming that, by the capitulation, they had again become American citizens, caused their instant release .- Express.

BLOCK OF COPPER FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT .-BLOCK OF COPPER FOR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—
Mr. Andrew Harvie, to whom was entrusted the task of preparing the block of native copper which the Legislature of Michigan has directed to be placed in the Washington Monument at Washington as the contribution of that State, in a communication to the Detroit Advertiser announces that the offering is now ready for transmission to Washington. The block was taken from the celebrated Cliff Mine, and is three feet long by twenty-one inches broad, nine inches thick, and weighs two thousand one hundred pounds. The designs on it are in Michigan native silver, and consist of the arms of the State of Michigan, with the motto: "Her Trust is in the Union." It is believed that nowhere out of Michigan could a mass of copper suited to the formation of such a block have been

The Minnesota Pioneer gives an account of a man named John Stran, who was recently found dead on his feet near St. Paul's. He was an Englishman, between 60 and 70 years of age; had served throughout the Mexican war, and had last fall built himself a cabin in the woods, and shut himself up to winter. His neighbors not having seen him for some time, two of them went to his cabin, which they found looked, and on opening it, Stean was discovered standing at the foot of his bed dead, and frozen solid. He had on seven pair of pantaloons, dently been dead some weeks.

warm in praise of his lady-subscribers. He says. Women are the best subscribers in the world to news "Women are the best subscribers in the world to newspapers, magazines, &c. We have been editor now going
on for eight years, and we have never lost a single dollar by female subscribers. They seem to make it a
point of conscientious duty to pay the preacher and the
printer—two classes of the community who suffer more
by bad pay, and no pay at all, than all the rest put together. Whenever we have a woman's name on our
book, we know it is just as good for two dollars and a
half as a picayune is for a ginger cake." Moreover, he
asserts that ladies read the newspapers to which they subscribe, and concludes by declaring that he "would rather
haves dozen ladies on his books than one man."

TO THE EDITORS. .

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23, 1852. Mesars. Galus & Skaton: I notice in one of the City papers of yesterday a despatch from Baltimore, which

Despatches from Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg represent the damage to the canal as incalculable. Breaks have been made every where along its course, and eight months vigorous labor will not make adequate repairs to resume navigation. The damage will cost over a million

When on my way, yesterday, from the line of the canal above dam No. 6, I was informed at Martinsburg that a despatch had been sent from that place, or Harper's Ferry, by telegraph to Baltimore, containing the above statement in relation to the damage done to the canal by the recent fresh. My informant gave me the name of the person sending the despatch, also that of the person to whom it was sent. As he was literally correct in what he said to me of the message sent, I have reason to think that he was equally so in regard to the person sending

I make this statement of what I heard at Martinsburg reports, prejudicial to the canal, may originate.

When the despatch was sent, there was but little known by any one of the extent of damage done to the canal, and from but a very small portion of it could any information whatever have been received.

I returned last evening from the upper part of the canal, having been over and seen, or received accurate informs tion respecting the damage done to, about seventy miles of it. The information thus obtained, in addition to what I have since my return received from the remainder of the line, justifies me in expressing the opinion that the navigation of the entire line of the canal may be restored for eighty thousand dollars, and that the repairs may be made in from two to three months.

In the course of a very few days I shall be able to speak with more certainty and confidence, both in regard to the amount of damage and time required for its repair. I cannot, however, be materially in error in the opinion above CHARLES B. FISK.
Chief Engineer, &c. Ches. and Ohio Canal

SERIOUS FRESHET IN THE JAMES RIVER.-There was great freshet in the James river at Richmond on Monday the water being within a few feet as high as during the great freshet of 1847. Main street, in Richmond, was inundated; and from the bridge to Rockets all the cellars, wharves, and shanties were submerged. It is supposed the canal is materially injured, and the wheat crop in the bottom lands greatly damaged. Large quantities of wood were swept down the river.

GREAT FLOOD AT PITTSBURG

morning, rose at the alarming rate of two feet per hour. At this city, at 10 o'clock last night, the water commenced rising at the rate of seven inches per hour, increasing during the night with unexampled rapidity. This morning the piers of the Monongahela Bridge were covered, the water being thirty feet deep and still rising. The piers of the aqueduct have been seriously broken by the crashof the aqueduct have been seriously broken ing timber. A number of men were seen on parts of rafts floating down, and many lives have doubtless been lost. The lower part of Allegheny city is covered with water.
In Pittsburg the dwellings along the streets near the river are also submerged. The rivers below are overflowing, and great devastation must occur to the to-

PITTSBURG, APRIL 20 .- 2 P. M .- At five o'clock this morning the water commenced receding, and has fallen about six inches. Up to that hour the water had reached within three feet of the flood of 1832. The damage to

within three feet of the flood of 1832. The damage to property cannot be exactly ascertained, but it is thought will exceed \$400,000.

In the low grounds in Allegheny city, comprising the First and Fourth Wards, not less than fifteen hundred families were turned out of their houses and driven into the upper stories. Along Rebecca street the water ran in torrents, being six feet deep.

Pittsburg proper suffered little, although merchants along the river were put to serious inconvenience by the hasty removal of their goods. At the Point many persons were flooded out of their houses. In May street the water reached half way up to Penn street, filling all the first stories of houses, and compelling the families to move out in boats and rafts.

In Birmingham, South Pittsburg, Manchester, renceville, and the First, Fifth, and Ninth Wards, bo ing on the Allegheny river, the water was several feet deep, stopping work in the foundries, machine shops, and iron mills along the river.

The Morgantown (Va.) Mirror of the 17th instant has further particulars of damage done by the flood along the Monongahela river and its tributaries. On West Fori

river three mills and twenty-six buildings were swept away, leaving eleven families houseless.

At West Brownsville an unfinished steamboat was swept away from the yard of Messrs. Cox & Laneheart. Capt. Pringle also lost a fine boat. Messrs. Watkins & Co., of the Brownsville Iron Works, lost their warehouse, 150 kegs of spikes, and 20 tons of bar iron. At Monongahela city the damage was about \$2,000. The injury to farms, &c. was very great in the aggregate.

At Charlottesville (Va.) on Saturday there was a tremendous fall of rain. The Rivanna river had risen on Sunday morning to the height of three feet above the top of the railroad bridge, which is itself thirty-five feet above the top of the surface of the water at its ordinary height. The fire of the locomotive that conveyed the train across the bridge was put out by water.

A heavy day's work was done at the Custom-house at New Orleans on the 9th instant, when 25,569 bales of cotton were cleared; of which 22,580 bales were for Liverpool, 2,197 for Genoa, and 792 for Antwerp

Joseph D. Pratt, indicted for the murder of William C. Radliff, has been tried in the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, at Providence, and convicted of manslaughter only Mr. Pratt shot the deceased under the impression that h was stealing chickens from his hen-roost.

FLYING SPEED.—The down express train on the Harlem road having got behind time on Saturday, the engineer, knowing that the track was clear, put the steam on the "iron horse." He ran one hundred and three miles in two hours and ten minutes, including three stops to take in wood and water. [Albany Evening Journal.

[Albany Evening Journal.]
It is lucky that "the engineer knew that the track was clear." This faculty of seeing a hundred and three miles ahead, and making his arrangements accordingly, must render this officer invaluable. The express train, of course, had a large number of passengers on board; if the engineer's vision had chanced to be at fault, they might have had their own opinions about running out of time so much faster than usual.—New York Times.

Several experiments were made with Phillips's Fire Several experiments were made with Phillips's Fire Annihilator, near Newark, on Saturday last. Varnish, shavings, and other inflammable materials were repeatedly set on fire, and the flames successfully extinguished; but a final experiment being made within a house, the fire unfortunately made too great headway—a fresh wind was blowing at the time—and the whole was burnt to the ground. The Newark Advertiser says: "Four or five Annihilators were thrown in at the windows, and in the opinion of many checked the flames, though they did not succeed in repressing them."

The first regular term of Kent County Court commenced at Chestertown (Maryland) on Monday last, Judge P. B. Hoppen on the bench. There was very little business transacted. The only important case was in relation to the constitutionality of an act of the Legislature of 1820, prohibiting citizens of other States from taking oysters on board any boat not wholly owned in that State. The ground taken by the counsel for defendants being that the law was in conflict with provisions of the Constitution of the United States, giving to Congress power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the States, and providing that the citizens of each shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several all the privileges and immunities of citizens of the sever

The question was argued at length by George Vickers and Edward A. Moore, Esqs. in favor, and Hon. E. F. Chambers and Jos. A. Wickes, Esq. against the constitutionality of the law of 1820. On Friday morning Judge Hopper delivered his opinion, pronouncing the law to be un-constitutional and void. The Kent News says an appeal will be takeng to a higher tribunal.

VAPOR BATHS APPLIED TO CATTLE .-- A letter from Vienna states that for the last two years an epidemic disease has decimated the horned cattle, and brought ruin ease has decimated the horned cattle, and brought ruin to the breeders; that the veterinary art was powerless to arrest the malady; but a Dr. Godlewske, a native of Gallacia, has recently claimed two premiums of 75,000f. each, offered by the Austrian and Russian Governments, he having, it is said, discovered an invaluable remedy in the application of vapor baths: